

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete the paragraphs beginning on page 1, lines 2-4.

Please insert the following new paragraph at page 1, line 3 immediately after the title:

--This is a 271 National Stage application of International application no. PCT/IB2004/002395, filed June 24, 2004, which claims priority to French application no. 03/07779, filed June 27, 2003 and provisional application no. 60/490,516, filed June 29, 2003. The entire contents of the above-referenced applications are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In an existing type of equipment, each anchoring member comprises a proximal threaded stud and a base portion intended for bony anchoring thereof. Each connecting part comprises a rounded section intended for surrounding a linking rod and two parallel drilled wings, these wings being intended for engaging onto said proximal threaded stud and for being clamped, using a nut screwed on the stud, against a bearing surface provided on said base portion. This clamping causes the clamping of said rounded section around the linking rod and thus ensures longitudinal ~~immobilisation~~immobilization of this rod with respect to the anchoring member. The anchoring members may

be of "monoaxial" type, i.e. comprise a proximal threaded stud integral with the base portion, or may be of "polyaxial" type, i.e. comprise a proximal threaded stud articulated with respect to that base portion.--

Before the paragraph starting at page 1, line 2, please insert the following heading:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Before the paragraph starting at page 2, line 10, please insert the following heading:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Before the paragraph starting at page 3, line 27, please insert the following heading:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Before the paragraph starting at page 4, line 1, please insert the following heading:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION